

## RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

did not spare his energy in bolstering up the courage of the small nation's leaders. Giving a forceful interpretation of the new trends in American foreign policy, Allen was successful in convincing many influential Iranians that there was no third alternative between Soviet totalitarianism and the Western pattern of liberal democracy, and that in the great battle of ideologies there was no place for hesitant neutrality.

Encouraged by the manifestations of a more determined and coordinated Western policy, Qavam sent up a "trial balloon." In the middle of November he ordered the arrest of a hundred leading Tudeh members in Teheran. And on November 24 the Premier ordered the troops to march into Azerbaijan to supervise parliamentary elections. As revealed later by Ambassador Ala in a letter addressed to the Security Council, "The Soviet Ambassador at Teheran, acting under instructions from his government, has given friendly admonition that the movement of government forces into this part of Iran may result in disturbances within that Province on the Persian borders adjacent to Russia, and advised that the government's plans be abandoned."<sup>17</sup> Qavam, however, did not abandon his plans. The American Ambassador came to his succor. In a statement made on December 4 to a British correspondent, Allen said that in his opinion the dispatch of government troops into Azerbaijan to ensure tranquil elections was "quite normal and appropriate." A few days later Under-Secretary of State Dean Acheson expressed himself similarly in Washington, thus endorsing the Ambassador's view. On the very day of his statement Allen was vig-

orously attacked by *Pravda* for his alleged support of  
reactionary  
elements and interference in the internal affairs of  
Iran. This was  
followed by a general outburst in the Soviet press  
against the United  
States, which was accused of seeking bases in the  
Middle East.  
When government troops crossed the Azerbaijan  
border, Pische-  
vari issued a call to resistance, promising an  
unrelenting fight. But  
apart from a few minor skirmishes, the Azerbaijani  
Democrats were  
unable to put a stop to the central army's advance.  
According to  
American correspondents who preceded the  
advancing Iranian army,  
the populace eagerly awaited the approach of  
government troops and  
IT *New York Times*, Dec. 7, 1946.